

WI-446
John T. Elliss House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1890

The oldest deed found for this West Main Street property, executed in 1894, describes it as a "house and lot" in that part of Salisbury known as "California....where John T. Ellis formerly lived." Exterior architectural details indicate the tee-shaped frame structure was erected during the last decade of the nineteenth century. The asymmetrical plan coupled with the extended eaves and fishscale shingles that sheath the projecting pavilion support this estimation of age. John T. Elliss, a stone mason, is listed in the 1907 Salisbury City directory, although by that time he and his family were residing on High Street.

Bounded on the south by West Main Street, the house originally backed up to the cranberry bog that occupied a large area west of the north branch of the Wicomico River. The cranberry bog was filled in and ultimately developed. Ownership of this Victorian dwelling passed through numerous hands during the early twentieth century. One of the long-term owners was Waller family, who held title to the house and lot between 1942 and 1986.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: John T. Elliss House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-446

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Dwelling

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-446
Magi No.
DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John T. Elliss House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 675 West Main Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert R. Cannon

street & number 106 Circle Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 106, P. 1366
liber 1086

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 644

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-446

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Historically identified as the John T. Elliss house, the two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped frame dwelling stands at 675 West Main Street in the west side neighborhood of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house faces southwest with the principal roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Estimated to date around 1890, the two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped frame dwelling is supported on a foundation composed of common bond brick and rusticated concrete blocks. Sheathed with a combination of aluminum siding and fishscale shingles, the house is covered by a steeply pitched gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. The house is built on a slight slope with the southeast side of the brick foundation exposed. A shorter two-story wing extends to the rear.

The southwest (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a projecting two-story, three-sided bay projecting forward of the entrance, which is sheltered by a shed roofed porch. The porch, supported by a Tuscan column on the southwest corner, is partially enclosed and is lighted by two-over-two sash windows. Two-light sidelights flank a replacement front door. The projecting bay is lighted by nine-over-one sash windows, and the gable end is sheathed with fishscale shingles. Piercing the gable end is a multi-pane, colored glass window that is distinguished by an arched header. The edges of the roof are extended and have open soffits, exposed and decorated rafter ends, and decorative brackets and trim fixed to the underside of the gable front pavilion. The second floor above the entrance bay is defined by a bank of single-pane sash windows.

The northwest and southeast sides of the house are marked by nine-over-one or single-pane sash windows. The eaves are extended around the sides of the building with the soffits open and the rafter ends exposed. Attached to the back of the main block is a service wing.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-446

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The oldest deed found for this West Main Street property, executed in 1894, describes it as a “house and lot” in that part of Salisbury known as “California....where John T. Ellis formerly lived.”¹ Exterior architectural details indicate the tee-shaped frame structure was erected during the last decade of the nineteenth century. The asymmetrical plan coupled with the extended eaves and fishscale shingles that sheath the projecting pavilion support this estimation of age. John T. Elliss, a stone mason, is listed in the 1907 Salisbury City directory, although by that time he and his family were residing on High Street.²

Bounded on the south by West Main Street, the house originally backed up to the cranberry bog that occupied a large area west of the north branch of the Wicomico River. The cranberry bog was filled in and ultimately developed. Ownership of this Victorian dwelling passed through numerous hands during the early twentieth century. One of the long-term owners was Waller family, who held title to the house and lot between 1942 and 1986.³

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 13/51, 7 June 1894.

² Salisbury Maryland City Directory (1907) Family Tree Bookshop, 1998, p. 15.

³ Wicomico County Land Records, JWS 240/353, 21 February 1942 and 1086/644, 8 December 1986.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-446

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 5/10/99

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~
~~Shaw House~~
~~21 State Circle~~
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~
~~(301) 269-2438~~

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

WI-446
John T. Elliss House
675 West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 106, Parcel 1366

1086/644 Tyronne M. Waller
 Gloria Waller

to

12/8/1986 Robert R. Cannon
 Undivided ½ interest

AJS 885/429 Tyronne M. Waller, Personal Representative of the
 Estate of Marion J. Waller

to

10/18/1977 Tyronne M. Waller, et al. (Gloria Waller, Monique Waller,
 Tyronne M. Waller, Jr.)

JWS 240/352 Burnes P. Jones, widow, Kent Co., Delaware

to

2/21/1942 Marion J. Waller
 Mary E. Key Waller

IDT 210/580 Levin C. Bailey, assignee
 Watson D. Mitchell and Lelia B. Mitchell

to

9/26/1938 Burnes P. Jones

Item 2

WI-446

Page 2

John T. Elliss House
675 West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

JCK 140/362

Robert W. Jones

to, wife

10/25/1925

Hester Jones

"California" bounded on the north by the cranberry bog,
binding on the south by West Main Street Extended

JCK 112/308

John S. Toadvine
Naomi Toadvine

to

3/18/1919

Robert W. Jones

JCK 109/288

Ernest M. Nichols
Margaret Nichols

to

8/5/1918

John S. Toadvine
\$900

EAT 71/481

John W. Station, trustee

to

2/14/1911

Ernest M. Nichols
\$600
Decree of Circuit Court, 12/27/1910, No. 1893 Chancery

WI-446

Page 3

John T. Elliss House
675 West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

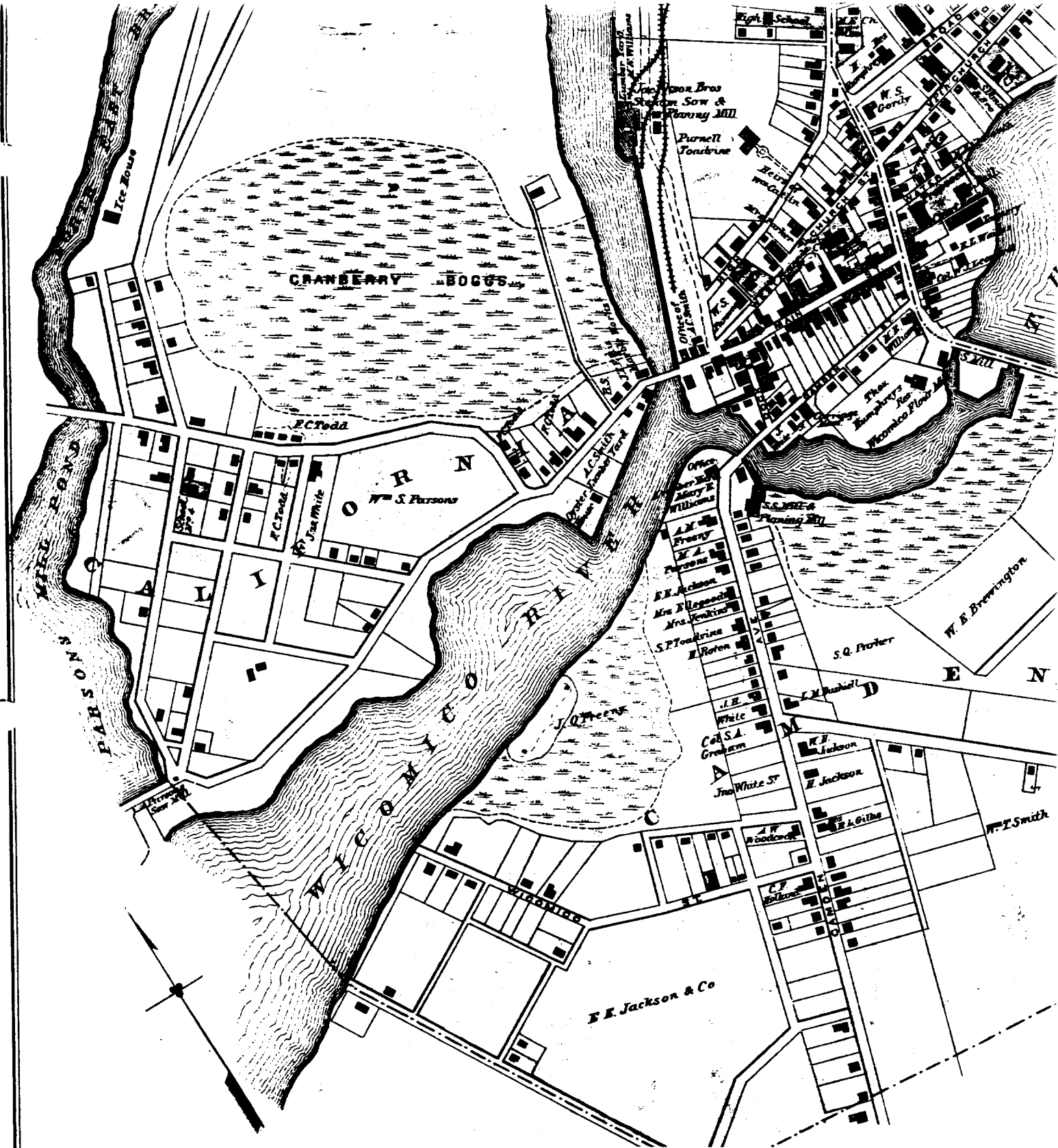
JTT 13/51

E. Stanley Toadvine

to

6/7/1894

James C. Dirickson
House and lot "California" ...where John T. Elliss
formerly lived....



WI-446
 John T. Elliss House
 675 West Main Street

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
 1877

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5860 1 NW
(HEBRON)

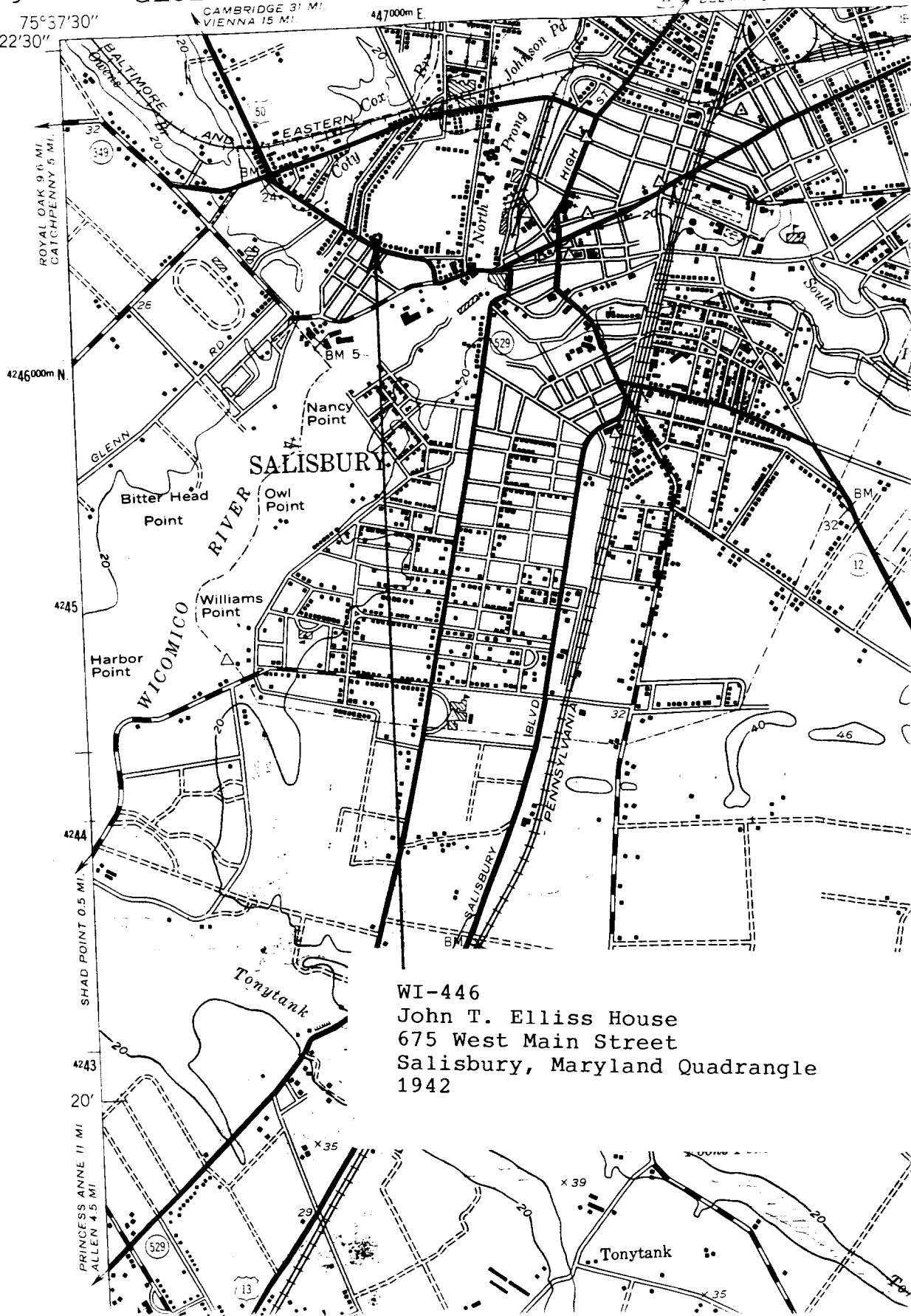
75°37'30"
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI
VIENNA 15 MI

447000m E

LAUREL 13 M
DELMAR 6 M

35



WI-446
John T. Elliss House
675 West Main Street
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



